Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In The Specification:

Please replace the Sequence Listing (1 page) filed on April 19, 2002 with the substitute Sequence Listing (1 page) filed herewith.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGURE 1 is a representation of derived data which characterizes a disease specific marker having a particular sequence (amino acid residues 2-12 of SEQ ID NO:1) useful in evidencing and categorizing at least one particular disease state[;]. Each patient listed in the data table shows the presence of the disease specific marker (amino acid residues 2-12 of SEQ ID NO:1) in their serum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGURE 2 is the characteristic profile derived via SELDI/TOF MS of the disease specific marker of Figure 1. SEQ ID NO:1 is shown.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Chelating [Sepharose] SEPHAROSE Mini Column

1. Dilute Sera in Sample/Running buffer;

2. Add Chelating [Sepharose] SEPHAROSE slurry to column and allow column to pack:

3. Add UF water to the column to aid in packing;

4. Add Charging Buffer once water is at the level of the resin surface;

C2 5. Add UF water to wash through non bound metal ions once charge buffer washes through;

6. Add running buffer to equilibrate column for sample loading;

7. Add diluted serum sample;

8. Add running buffer to wash unbound protein;

9. Add elution buffer and collect elution fractions for analysis;

10. Acidify each elution fraction.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The instant invention involves the use of a combination of preparatory steps in conjunction with mass spectroscopy and time-of-flight detection procedures to maximize the diversity of biopolymers which are verifiable within a particular sample. The cohort of biopolymers verified within such a sample is then viewed with reference to their ability to evidence at least particular disease state; thereby enabling a diagnostician to gain the ability to characterize either the presence or absence of [said] at least one disease state relative to recognition of the presence and/or the absence of [said] the biopolymer.

C3

Abstract.